

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

MARIE KETTY VICTOR GEORGES, LPN
License # 26NP06668000

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Marie Ketty Victor Georges¹ ("Respondent") is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about October 17, 2012, Respondent was denied licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) by endorsement by the North Carolina Board of

¹ Respondent's name was listed as Victor Ketty Marie Georges on the Provisional Order of Discipline filed on September 13, 2014. As of March 14, 2013, the Board's records list "Ketty Marie" as Respondent's first name and "Victor Georges" as Respondent's last name after Respondent's name was changed from "Ketty Marie Georges." Respondent has replied to the Provisional Order and certifies her name as "Marie Ketty Victor Georges" but attaches documentation indicating that she also uses the name "Ketty M. Georges."

Nursing. The basis for the denial was that Respondent had provided false information to the North Carolina Board in the course of seeking RN licensure by endorsement. The North Carolina Board found that Respondent applied for RN licensure utilizing a fraudulent verification of licensure, indicating that she was licensed as an RN by the Guam Board of Nursing.

3. On or about June 2, 2014, a letter of inquiry on behalf of the New Jersey Board was sent to Respondent at her address of record by certified and regular mail, asking Respondent about her submission of fraudulent information to the North Carolina Board. The certified mailing of the inquiry was returned, unclaimed. The regular mailing of the inquiry was not returned. No response has been received to date.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's attempt to obtain licensure in North Carolina as a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) by submitting fraudulent documentation constitutes engaging in fraud, deception and misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

Respondent's failure to respond to the Board's inquiry constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a three year suspension and an eight thousand dollar (\$8000) civil penalty was entered on September 13, 2014. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a

modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline through her legal counsel. Respondent is an LPN who resides in New Jersey. It is alleged that she attempted to obtain a more advanced nursing license, an RN (Registered Professional Nurse) license, by fraud. In response to this allegation, Respondent claims that she herself was a victim of a fraud. She states that a friend gave her a phone number for a woman -- named Victoria S. Ikara Inwang -- in charge of "APANU school" or "Abundance Wisdom University" in Nigeria where Respondent believed she could become an RN through distance learning. Neither APANU school nor Abundance Wisdom University are accredited or approved nursing schools by the New Jersey Board of Nursing. Respondent has not provided any documentation to indicate that these two schools are approved or accredited by any Board of Nursing anywhere in the world or that these schools even exist. Despite this obvious shortcoming, in early 2012, Respondent directly paid Ms. Inwang the substantial sum of \$14,000: In February 2012, Respondent sent Ms. Inwang \$2000 by money gram; in June 2012, Respondent wired \$8000 to Ms. Inwang; and in July 2012, Respondent debited \$4000 to Ms. Inwang.

Respondent next maintains that she began taking courses through Ms. Inwang's program, but does not provide any proof thereof -- she has not provided the names of any of the courses, copies of any materials that were provided to her during the courses

which she would have had to study to pass the licensing exam (NCLEX-RN), print outs of the web material, copies of papers or exams that she submitted as part of the courses, anything saved on her computer, or a recitation of knowledge learned during these courses. She has submitted zero evidence of actually taking a course and merely maintains that Ms. Inwang never sent Respondent her grades or certifications.

Respondent may not have received grades or certifications from Ms. Inwang, but what she did receive was assistance in multiple attempts to obtain an RN license from multiple sources. In July 2012, an application for RN licensure by endorsement of a Guam issued RN license was submitted in Respondent's name to the North Carolina Board of Nursing. The application was denied in October 2012 because the application had fraudulently indicated that Respondent had an RN license in Guam when she did not.

In October 2012, Respondent received an acknowledgement that Respondent was registered to take the NCLEX-RN in connection with her application for RN licensure by examination to the Delaware Board of Nursing after having completed a nursing program at Nyack College in Nyack, New York. Respondent claims that she immediately called Ms. Inwang to correct an error in the state of licensure as Respondent did not want to be licensed in Delaware and wanted to be licensed in New Jersey. Respondent did not address the obvious error relating to the nursing program listing Nyack College.

Around the same time, on September 28, 2012, Respondent submitted an online application for RN licensure by examination to the New Jersey Board of Nursing. The application was incomplete as Respondent had indicated that she had completed a

BSN (Bachelors in Science, Nursing) program from 2/20/2008 – 4/16/2012, but did not state the name of the school and instead indicated “N/A.” Clearly, the name of the school from which Respondent supposedly obtained her BSN is relevant and not “N/A,” which usually means “not applicable” or “not available.”

In April 2014, Respondent disputed approximately \$1500 worth of Sprint telephone charges and claimed that someone had used all of her personal identifying information to open a Sprint account in Respondent’s name. In an undated, unsigned, unsworn affidavit, Respondent alleges that Ms. Inwang used all the personal identifying information that Respondent had provided to Ms. Inwang to open up the Sprint account. Similarly, Ms. Inwang used all of Respondent’s personal identifying information, as provided by Respondent and based upon Respondent’s \$14,000 payment to her, to attempt to obtain an RN license in Respondent’s name.

In or around May 2014, a fourth attempt was made to obtain an RN license for Respondent. This time, Respondent received an acknowledgement that she was registered for NCLEX-RN in connection with her application for RN licensure by examination (not endorsement) to the North Carolina Board of Nursing after having completed a nursing program at Western Piedmont Community College in North Carolina. Respondent again contacted Ms. Inwang and was informed by Ms. Inwang that Respondent would be forwarded additional information for North Carolina. In her certification in response to the Provisional Order, Respondent wrote “Then I sent my information to the North Carolina Board of Nursing in May, 2014.”

In June 2014, the Board sent Respondent the Demand for Written Statement Under Oath. At that time, Respondent and her friends who had also paid Ms. Inwang in

an attempt to obtain RN licenses, sought legal counsel. However, Respondent did not actually retain an attorney and the Board received no response to the Demand for Written Statement Under Oath. Respondent has still not fully responded to the Demand and has only provided a response to one question that was asked – to provide her version of what occurred. On that basis alone, Respondent's license should be suspended until she has fully responded to the Board's inquiry and the \$500 civil penalty for failure to cooperate with a Board investigation is warranted.

Regarding her attempt to obtain an RN license, Respondent's conduct, and her response to the Provisional Order, conform to a pattern that the Board has seen involving LPNs seeking to obtain RN credentials without obtaining the educational basis for those credentials and without taking or passing the required examination (NCLEX-RN). Without receiving a bill or invoice of any sort from any University, College, or program, Respondent wired a significant amount of money (\$14,000) to Ms. Inwang's account in Nigeria. Respondent also provided Ms. Inwang with all her personal identifying information. In return, multiple attempts were made to obtain an RN license in Respondent's name. As a resident of New Jersey, Respondent could have used whatever RN license she was able to obtain with the assistance of Ms. Inwang to obtain a New Jersey RN license by endorsement. This fraud thus had the potential to inflict actual harm on the citizens of New Jersey and the Board therefore regards Respondent's conduct in this matter unconscionable.

Respondent now maintains that she was victimized by Ms. Inwang, who was the perpetrator of all this fraud. Respondent argues that she did not know about the first application by endorsement which was submitted to North Carolina and that

Respondent would not have submitted that application with errors relating to her address, phone number, and nursing program. The Board is not persuaded. There would have been no reason for Ms. Inwang to submit the forms to North Carolina without being paid by Respondent. It was Respondent who sought RN licensure, not Ms. Inwang. Even after North Carolina's denial of the application for RN licensure by endorsement in October 2012, Respondent communicated with -- and was complicit and in collusion with -- Ms. Inwang on three other attempts to obtain RN licensure over the course of nineteen months. All other attempts contained errors relating to the nursing program supposedly completed by Respondent. The obvious explanation, highlighted by Respondent's failure to provide any proof that she completed a valid RN nursing program, was that she never actually attended any such program.

Respondent requests a full hearing to show that she was victimized when Ms. Inwang submitted the North Carolina application by endorsement with its errors and when Ms. Inwang allegedly stole Respondent's identity to open a Sprint account. A full hearing is not required. Respondent was given the opportunity to submit any evidence indicating that she was legitimately enrolled in and participated with an accredited or approved nursing program. She has submitted nothing in that regards and only reiterated that Ms. Inwang had submitted certain documents without Respondent's knowledge. Additionally, beyond the two instances where Respondent claims she did not submit the information and did not know the information was being submitted (the North Carolina endorsement and the Sprint account), there were other instances where Respondent communicated with Ms. Inwang and admitted that she herself submitted information to obtain an RN license (North Carolina by examination in May 2014).

Moreover, there were multiple red flags in Respondent's dealings with Ms. Inwang and Respondent ignored them all. Respondent continued to collude with Ms. Inwang through at least four attempts to obtain an RN license in Respondent's name. It defies credulity to suggest that she did not know what she was doing. The simple explanation is that Respondent paid \$14,000 to obtain an RN license and she expected Ms. Inwang to deliver it. Again, the Board recognizes the pattern of attempting to obtain a fraudulent license in this manner.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary. The Board finds that Respondent has engaged in fraud, deception, and misrepresentation warranting a three year suspension of her LPN license and a \$7500 civil penalty.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 08 day of June, 2016,

ORDERED that:

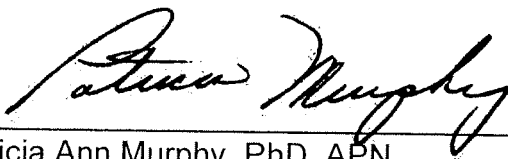
1. Respondent's New Jersey nursing license is hereby suspended for a period of three years for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and until further Board Order. Prior to reinstatement, Respondent shall provide complete answers to the Board's Demand for Written Statement Under Oath, demonstrate completion of all required continuing education from June 1, 2011 to the time of reinstatement, and comply with all other requirements of reinstatement.

2. A civil penalty in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7500) is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), as well as a civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2, -1.3, for a total penalty amount of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000). Payment shall

be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law. The Board will not accept any petition for reinstatement unless and until Respondent has paid the civil penalty in its entirety.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:



Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President